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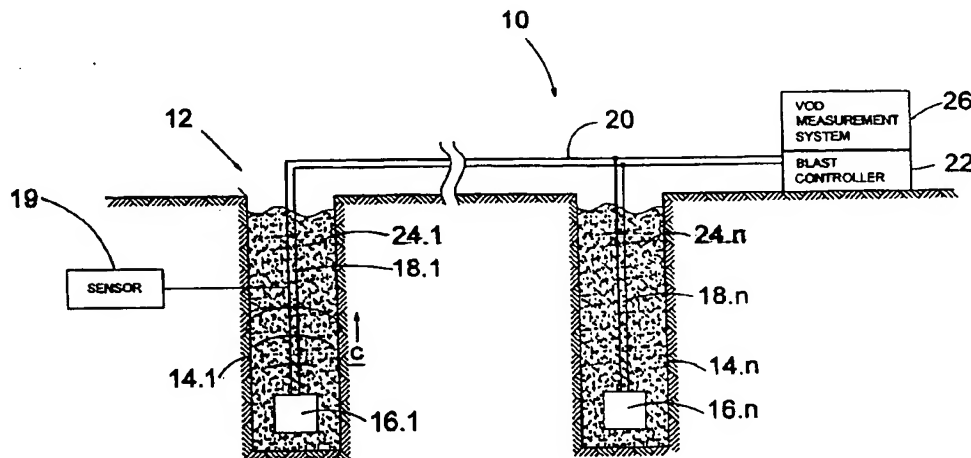
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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): SMI TECHNOLOGY (PTY) LIMITED [ZA/ZA]; 156 Hendrik Verwoerd Drive, 2194 Randburg (ZA).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): MEYER, Eric, Nichol [ZA/ZA]; 43 Karel Street, Schoemansville, North West province, 0216 (ZA). LOWINDS, Charles, Michael [US/US]; 12955 Courthouse Blvd, Rosemount, MN 55068 (US).
- (74) Agent: TRUTER, Jacobus, Tridoux; D M Kisch INC, P.O. Box 781218, 2146 Sandton (ZA).
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MONITORING FEATURES OF A BLAST



(57) Abstract: A method of monitoring a feature of a blast such as velocity of detonation (VOD) comprises the steps of providing a detonator 16.1 at a blast site 12. Prior to the blast, a blast control signal path 20, 18.1 is utilized to communicate blast control signals to the detonator. During a period following start of the blast, a blast feature signal communication path 18.1, 20 comprising at least part of the blast control signal path is utilized to communicate a blast feature signal relating to the feature to a remote blast feature monitoring station 26. The blast feature signal is generated by generating a monitoring signal in a conductor arrangement 18.1 connected to the detonator, utilizing a sensor outside of the housing of the detonator to sense changes in a blast feature monitoring parameter of the monitoring signal, and transmitting data relating to the changes to the station 26.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/ZA 03/00041A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 F42D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 976 199 A (MORAITIS THRASYVOULAS ET AL) 11 December 1990 (1990-12-11)	1-37
Y	the whole document	10, 14, 15, 19, 24, 25, 35, 37
Y	EP 0 897 098 A (SMI TECHNOLOGY PTY LIMITED) 17 February 1999 (1999-02-17)	10, 14, 15, 19, 24, 25, 35, 37
A	paragraph '0011! - paragraph '0015! WO 00 04337 A (HATOREX AG ;SHANN PETER (GB)) 27 January 2000 (2000-01-27) page 5, paragraph 2 -page 7, paragraph 1; figures --- -/--	1, 16, 26, 30

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Herrera, M

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 295 438 A (HILL TREVOR R ET AL) 22 March 1994 (1994-03-22) the whole document -----	1, 16, 26, 30

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Information on patent family members

International Application No  
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